

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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R 161610Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5736
IFNO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 3225
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 0347

USEEC

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EEC, ECON, DA, SW, XF
SUBJ: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO DENMARK

REF: COPENHAGEN 0225

SUMMARY: WEST GERMAN CHNCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDTVISITED
DENMARK JANUARY 13 FOR ONE OF HIS PERIODIC INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS WITH DANISH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN.
THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DISCUSSED THE MIDDLE EAST,
UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING SCHEDULED
FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1978. SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN
BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE SEVERAL-HOUR VISIT WERE
UNPRECEDENTED IN DENMARK. END SUMMARY.

1. CHANCELLOR SCMIDT'S INFORMAL CALL ON THE DANISH
PRIME MINISTER BEGAN WITH THE ARRIVAL OF HIS SMALL
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MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT COPENHAGEN'S MILITARY AIRPORT AT 10 A.M.
AND ENDED WITH HIS DEPARTURE AT 6 P.M., TWO HOURS LATER
THAN SCHEDULED. ANKER JORGENSEN AND HELMUT SCHMIDT STATED ON
TELEVISION THAT THEY DEVOTED MOST OF THEIR TIME TOGETHER TO
DISKSSION OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ASSIGNED PRIORITY
TO DEALING WITH UEMPLOYMENT IN THEIR SEPARATE COUNTRIES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S

QUESTION IMPLYING THAT THE FRG WAS NOT DOING ENOUGH TO SPEED ECONOMIC RECOVERY, SCHMIDT EXPLAINED AND DEFENDED THE FRG'S DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROGRAM. HE POINTED OUT THAT AN ADDITION OF 1 PERCENT IN THE FRG'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT WOULD BRING ONLY ONE-SIXTY-FOURTH OF THAT ONE PERCENT IN INCREASED IMPORTS TO THE FRG FROM DENMARK. FURTHERMORE, SCHMIDT SAID THAT HIS PARTY WAS ALREADY UNDER DOMESTIC ATTACK FROM THE OPPOSITION OVER THE SIZE OF THE EXISTING FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT. HE AND ANKER JORGENSEN WERE AGREED, SCHMIDT SAID, THAT AMELIORATION OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY GERMANY AND DENMARK ALONE BUT RATHER DEPENDED ON JOINT POLICIES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES, JAPAN AND THE EC.

3. FOR THIS REASON, SCHMIDT SAID IN A SEPARATE HALF-HOUR TELEVISION INTERVIEW, MEETINGS OF THE TOP LEADERS OF THE EC SUCH AS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN DENMARK IN APRIL, AND MEETINGS OF THE LEADERS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC POWERS, SUCH AS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN GERMANY LATER IN THE YEAR, WERE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. IT WAS HIS VIEW, SCHMIDT SAID, THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE LATTER MEETING.

4. SCHMIDT SAID THAT HE AND JORGENSEN WERE AGREED IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO PROTECTIONIST MEASURES AND SHARED THE BELIEF THAT THE ECONOMIC AND UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD WOULD BE MUCH WORSE WERE IT NOT FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THE EUROPEAN
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COMMUNITY AND THE EXISTING COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE PRAISED THE DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' EC PARLIAMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO AND CALLED THE ORIGINAL DRAFT MUCH TOO LONG (REFTEL).

5. ASKED HOW FAR THE FRG WOULD GO IN SUPPORTING THE DANISH KRONER IN THE EUROPEAN CURRENCY SNAKE SCHMIDT REPLIED WITH ONE WORD: "UNLIMITED." SCHMIDT POINTED OUT, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE DREADFUL CONSEQUENCES OF UNEMPLOYMENT, THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE FRG AND DENMARK WAS NOT NEARLY AS BAD AS SOME LIKED TO PAINT IT. IN ILLUSTRATION HE ASSERTED THAT AN UNEMPLOYED PERSON IN DENMARK LIVED BETTER THAN A PERSON WORKING 42 OR 48 HOURS A WEEK IN ANY OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

6. ON THE MIDDLE-EAST, SCHMIDT AND JORGENSEN EXPRESSED THEIR VIEW THAT THE EC SHOULD NOT NOW MAKE ANOTHER DECLARATION IN RESPONSE TO THE SADAT LETTER. SCHMIDT DID, HOWEVER, DESCRIBE SADAT'S TRIP TO TEL AVIV AS COURAGEOUS AND MADE AT GRAVE RISK TO HIMSELF. NOW, SAID SCHMIDT, "AND I AM A FRIEND OF ISRAEL, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO RESPOND TO THIS INITIATIVE."

7. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE US STATEMENT ON

COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, SCHMIDT TOLD HIS INTERLOCUTOR THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO CRITICIZE A U.S. PRESIDENT ON DANISH SOIL. HE ADDED THAT HE AND ANKER JORGENSEN WERE AGREED THAT THEY WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN ITALIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

8. JORGENSEN BRIEFED SCHMIDT ON THE MEETING OF THE NORDIC LEADERS WITH KOSYGIN IN HELSINKI AND HIS CALL ON THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO JAPAN.

9. THE MEETING AND TELEVISION INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE UNDER EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE AT MARIENBORG. ACCORDING TO GERMAN EMBASSY SOURCES, THE TWO LEADERS SPENT A GOOD PART OF THE TEN-HOUR VISIT UNCLASSIFIED

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CONVERSING TOGETHER ALONE.
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